



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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TRANSFER OF FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TO ALASKA APPROVED

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton took action today to assure transfer of the administration and management of fish and wildlife resources in Alaska to the new State.

In letters to Congress, Secretary Seaton certified, in the language of the Statehood Act, that the Alaska State Legislature has made "adequate provision for the administration, management, and conservation of the fish and wildlife resources of Alaska in the broad national interest."

The Alaska Statehood Act provided that this responsibility would be retained by the Federal Government until the first day of the calendar year following expiration of 90 legislative days after the Secretary's certification. The transfer will, therefore, be effective January 1, 1960, unless Congress adjourns before the 90 legislative day period expires.

On March 2, Secretary Seaton wrote Acting Governor Hugh Wade, setting forth in detail some factors which he believed necessary to be adequately considered in formulating a fish and wildlife program for Alaska, in the broad national interest.

On April 23, he received Alaska House Bill No. 201, and other pertinent legislation of the Alaska Legislature.

In certifying the adequacy of the proposed programs, Secretary Seaton noted today that the Department did not regard them as "ideal." He said he was "disappointed" with some provisions of the legislation.

The text of the Secretary's letter to Congress and to Acting Governor Wade are attached.

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